

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 SAB-01 SAM-01 /093 W

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R 251533Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 415

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2511

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG SO ET IS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN MEDIATION ON TFAI QUESTION

1. DURING PAST TEN DAYS SOMALI AMBASSADOR SBDUL RAHMAN FAREH HAS SEIZED SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO SPEAK TO AMBASSADOR ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVED US-SOMALI RELATIONS. HE HAS ALSO URGED THAT WE TALK TO FRENCH TO PERSUAD THEM TO TAKE MORE FORTHCOMING POSITION ON TFAI. HE CLAIMS TO BE ACTING ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE. AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN NONCOMMITTAL IN REPLY INDICATING THAT WE HOPED PARTIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN TFAI ISSUE WOULD SUCCEED IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEM.

2. WITH REGARD TO POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN MEDIATION IN SOMALI-FRENCH CONFLICT, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MUHAMMAD RIAD TOLD AMBASSADOR PRIOR TO HIS RECENT DEPARTURE FOR ADDIS
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ABABA THAT ONE OF HIS MISSIONS WOULD BE TO TRY TO ASSIST

IN RESOLVING THIS DISPUTE. SOMALI POLCOUNS TOLD EMBOFF
FEBRUARY 25 THAT DEPPRIMIN/FONMIN FAHMY HAD OFFERED GOE
MEDIATION AND THAT SOMALI SIDE OF DISCUSSION WOULD
CONSIST OF SOMALI UN PERMREP ABD AL-RAZZAQ HUSAYN AND
SOMALI AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO ABDUL RAHMAN FAREH. BASICALLY,
SOMALIS WILL PUSH FOR OFFICIAL OBSERVERS AT REFERENDUM FROM
EITHER UN, OAU, OR ARAB LEAGUE, BUT SOMALIS NOT OPTIMISTIC
ABOUT FRENCH WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW OFFICIAL OBSERVERS.
SOMALIS EXPECT WIDE-SCALE EXPULSIONS OF ETHNIC SOMALIS
FROM DJIBOUTI PRIOR TO REFERENDUM.

3. CONCERNING FUTURE OF TFAI, SOMALI POLCOUNS OPINED THAT
TFAI CONTAINS INSUFFICIENT POPULATION TO BECOME VIABLE
INDEPENDENT STATE AND SOMALIS CONFIDENT THAT UNRIGGED
REFERENDUM WILL CALL FOR EVENTUAL UNIFICATION OF TFAI AND
SOMALIA. POLCOUNS STATED THAT, ON MATTER OF ADDIS
ABABA-DJIBOUTI RAIL LINK, FREEDOM OF ACCESS FOR ETHIOPIAN
GOODS TO DJIBOUTI HARBOR COULD BE SUBJECTED TO INTERNATIONAL
GUARANTEES, WORKED EITHER THROUGH UN, SUPPORTED BY AL, OR
ARRANGED IN SOME OTHER FASHION INVOLVING FRENCH. POLCOUNS
CONCLUDED THAT PRESENT SOMALI POSITION CONCERNING STATIONING
OF FRENCH TROOPS IN DJIBOUTI IS THAT ALL FOREIGN MILITARY
ELEMENTS MUST BE WITHDRAWN FROM TERRITORY WHEN TFAI GAINS
ITS INDEPENDENCE.
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